# CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	☐ Force	☑ Discourt.	☐ U.S.
Ariel Courage		Team # 5	201401385	☑ Abuse	O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	<u> </u>	Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Wednesday, 11/06/2013, Monday 02/10/2014, 9:06 PM	/,	§ 87(2)(b)		79	8/10/2015	8/10/2015
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:	Date/Time	Received at CCl	RB
Tue, 02/11/2014 4:08 PM		CCRB	Phone	Tue, 02/11	/2014 4:08 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess			
XX/*/		<u> </u>				
Witness(es)		Home Addre	ess			_
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. POM Jamaal Miller	18339	939039	079 PCT			
2. SGT David Leonardi	04982	930557	079 PCT			
3. POM Andrew Ho	11741	941907	079 PCT			
Officer(s)	Allegation	on		Inve	estigator Recon	nmendation
A.SGT David Leonardi	Abuse: S	Abuse: Sgt. David Leonardi stopped § 87(2)(b)				
B.POM Jamaal Miller	Abuse: PO Jamaal Miller stopped § 87(2)(b)					
C.POM Jamaal Miller	Abuse: PO Jamaal Miller frisked § 87(2)(b)					
D.POM Jamaal Miller	Abuse: PO Jamaal Miller searched § 87(2)(b)					
E.POM Jamaal Miller	Discourtesy: PO Jamaal Miller spoke rudely to § 87(2)(b)					
F.SGT David Leonardi	Discourtesy: Sgt. David Leonardi spoke rudely to \$87(2)(b)					
G.POM Andrew Ho	Discourtesy: PO Andrew Ho spoke rudely to \$87(2)(b)					

## **Case Summary** On February 11, 2014, § 87(2)(b) filed this complaint with the CCRB by telephone (encl. [4A-B]). On February 10, 2014, at 9:06 p.m., in the vicinity of \$87(2)(b) in Brooklyn, PO Jamaal Miller of the 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct stopped § 87(2)(b) following allegations resulted: Allegation A – Abuse of Authority: Sgt. David Leonardi stopped §87(2)(6) Allegation B – Abuse of Authority: PO Jamaal Miller stopped § 87(2)(6) Allegation C – Abuse of Authority: PO Jamaal Miller frisked 887(2)(6) Allegation D – Abuse of Authority: PO Jamaal Miller searched 887(2)(b) Allegation E – Discourtesy: PO Jamaal Miller spoke rudely to \$87(2)(6) Allegation F – Discourtesy: Sgt. David Leonardi spoke rudely to \$87(2)(b) Allegation G – Discourtesy: PO Andrew Ho spoke rudely to \$87(2)(6) § 87(2)(g) On March 13, 2014, a portion of this complaint was referred to IAB to address allegations of harassment. **Results of Investigation Civilian Statement** Complainant: § 87(2)(b) was § 87(2)(b) old. § 87(2)(b) • At the time of this incident, §87(2)(b) is a black man, 5'11" tall, 200 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes, and glasses. §87(2)(b) § 87(2)(b) s cousin and is § 87(2)(b) CCRB Statement (encl. [4A-B]) was inside of § 87(2)(b) at the time of this incident and did not witness the encounter between § 87(2)(6) and the officers. Victim: § 87(2)(b) was § 87(2)(b) old. § 87(2)(b) • At the time of this incident, § 87(2)(b) is a black man. 6'0" tall, 240 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes, and a beard. §87(2)(6) § 87(2)(b) **CCRB Statement** provided a telephone statement on February 18, 2014 (encl. [4C]), and an in-person statement on February 21, 2014 (encl. [4D-I]). §87(2)(9) On February 10, 2014, at approximately 9 p.m., § 87(2)(b) was

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unspecified amount of money in his front right pants pocket, and keys hooked onto his front right pants pocket. § 87(2)(b) denied carrying anything else, and did not think his pockets had

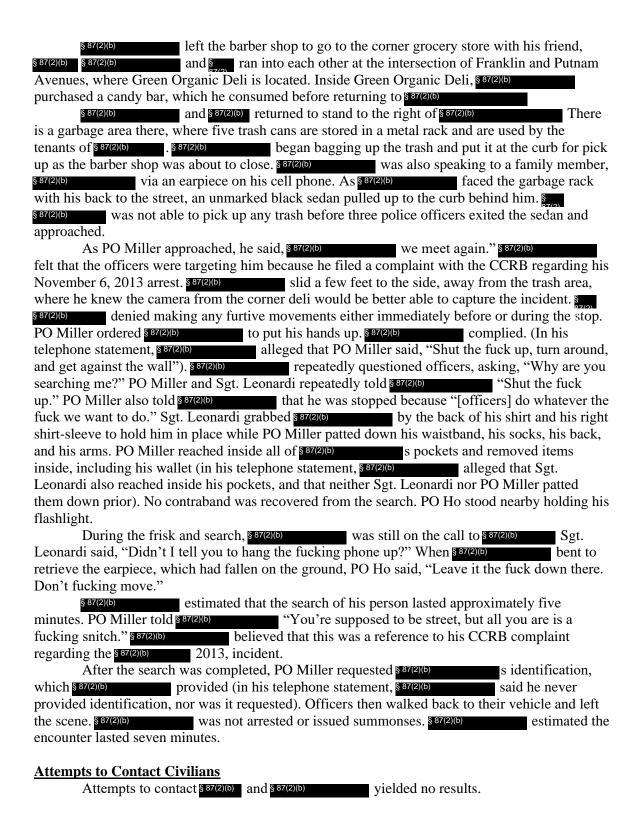
in Brooklyn. § 87(2)(b)

at § 87(2)(b)

carried a carton of cigarettes in his front jacket pocket, his cell phone, his wallet and an

working at § 87(2)(b)

any visible bulges.



#### **NYPD Statements:**

#### **Subject Officer: PO JAMAAL MILLER**

• At the time of this incident, PO Miller, an officer of the 79<sup>th</sup> precinct, was \$87(2)(b) old. PO Miller is a black man, 5'11" tall, 210 pounds, with black hair and hazel eyes.

#### Computerized and Handwritten Stop, Question, and Frisk Report (encl. [5A-E])

The crime suspected was criminal possession of a weapon. The circumstances leading to the stop included furtive movements and actions indicative of engaging in violent crimes. was frisked on the basis of furtive movements and actions indicative of engaging in violent crimes. § 87(2)(b) was searched on the basis of an outline of a weapon. A knife or cutting instrument was found. The additional circumstances included proximity to the scene of suspected offense.

#### Memo Book (encl. [5F-G])

CCRB Statement (encl. [5H-K])
PO Miller was interviewed at the CCRB on April 16, 2014. On February 18, 2014, PO
Miller was driving the RMP with PO Ho and Sgt. Leonardi. As PO Miller made a right turn from
Putnam Avenue onto Franklin Avenue, PO Miller observed \$87(2)(b) facing a wall to
the right of a storefront. §87(2)(b) stood approximately one car length away from PO
Miller. PO Miller had an unobstructed view of \$87(2)(b) and the area was well-lit.
looked over his shoulder as PO Miller turned the corner. As he turned the corner, PC
Miller saw that he appeared to have something in his hand. PO Miller could not describe the
object that he held and did not remember in which hand he held it. PO Miller believed it was
around his waistband area.
PO Miller stopped the vehicle parallel to \$87(2)(b) When PO Miller exited his
vehicle, he was attempting to ascertain whether or not §87(2)(b) was carrying a weapon.
He exited the RMP with the intention to stop and question § 87(2)(6) and to inform him of
why he was stopped. It was not until he began approaching \$87(2)(b) that he saw he was
urinating. PO Miller saw a stream of urine and saw a puddle of urine forming on the ground. His
genitals were also outside of his pants, although PO Miller was unclear about at what point he
observed his genitals. PO Miller indicated that even though he saw him urinating, his suspicions
were still high because he could not see his hands and thought he could still be holding
"something." PO Miller could not describe where \$87(2)(b) shands were.
grabbed a large piece of wood as PO Miller moved closer to him. The piece of
wood obstructed PO Miller's view of \$87(2)(b) from the waist down.
He recognized \$87(2)(b) from a prior arrest he made on \$87(2)(b) 2013 and
noticed an open container of malt liquor on the ground a few feet away from him. PO Miller
announced himself as a police officer. He ordered \$87(2)(b) to put the piece of wood
down and to put his hands against the wall. \$87(2)(b) complied. As \$87(2)(b)
turned to place his hands upon the wall, PO Miller observed a two to three-inch bulge in one of
s pants pockets which he immediately suspected to be a knife, though he did not
remember what kind. There was a clip for the knife that was visible outside of the pocket. The
rest of the knife was not visible. PO Miller frisked \$87(2)(b) on the basis of "something"
that he'd seen, as well as this bulge. PO Miller patted down \$87(2)(5) s body from his
neck to his waist. He recovered the knife that was attached to the clip. PO Miller could not
describe this knife except that it was approximately four inches long. PO Miller did not reach into

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his pocket to retrieve the knife. He did not frisk or search any other area of \$87(2)(b)
explained that he carried the knife because he worked \$87(2)(b)
made some comment to the effect of, "I didn't rat you out, my brother
did," possibly referring to a CCRB complaint that was filed by both \$87(2)(b) After frisking
PO Miller requested his identification, which \$87(2)(b) provided. Sgt.
Leonardi instructed PO Miller not to issue him a summons.
He prepared a Stop, Question and Frisk report for the suspected weapon. PO Miller said tha
the "furtive movements" listed referred only to \$87(2)(b) s attempt to grab the piece of
wood and pull it in front of his waist. The "actions indicative of engaging in violent crime"
referred to the wood, the fact that PO Miller could not see his hands, and the fact that he did not
know what §87(2)(b) was going to do with the wood. The "proximity to scene of
suspected offense" referred to \$87(2)(b) s violation of local law by urinating in public.
PO Miller did not say, "Didn't I tell you to hang the fucking phone up," "Leave it the fuck
down there, don't fucking move," "Shut the fuck up," "We do whatever the fuck we want to,"
"You're supposed to be street but all you are is a fucking snitch," and never heard any officer
make any of these statements. PO Miller did not use profanities or physical force against
and did not see any other officer do so.

# **Subject Officer: SGT. DAVID LEONARDI**

• At the time of the incident, Sgt. Leonardi, assigned to the 79<sup>th</sup> precinct, was 887(2)(b) old. Sgt. Leonardi is a white male, 6'3" tall, 250 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes.

#### Memo Book (encl. [5L-N])

#### **CCRB Statement (encl. [50-R])**

Sgt. Leonardi was interviewed at the CCRB on April 8, 2014. 887(2)(9)
PO Ho was the operator of the
vehicle, Sgt. Leonardi sat in the front passenger seat, and PO Miller sat in the backseat.
Sgt. Leonardi observed \$87(2)(b) standing alone on a dark section of Putnam Avenue,
which to Sgt. Leonardi appeared strange. §87(2)(b) had his back to the street and was
urinating; Sgt. Leonardi observed a stream of his urine. Sgt. Leonardi and PO Miller exited the
vehicle simultaneously. As they approached, \$87(2)(b) looked over his shoulder, noticed
the presence of the officers, and immediately turned back around or "bladed" away so that his
side was turned away from them. He pulled a piece of plywood in front of his body so that he was
not visible from the waist down. He was looking down. His hands were at his front waistband for
a few seconds. Sgt. Leonardi could not tell whether he had a weapon there or if he was "putting
himself back together" after having urinated. When Sgt. Leonardi and PO Miller were
approximately five feet from §87(2)(b) they ordered him to show his hands. §
turned to face them and complied. PO Miller and Sgt. Leonardi placed
s hands against the wall of the storefront.
appeared to be nervous and intoxicated. On the basis of the plywood and the
movement of his hands at his waistband, PO Miller frisked him in the area of his waistband. Sgt.
Leonardi did not search §87(2)(b) and never saw any officer do so. Sgt. Leonardi never
observed any bulges on §87(2)(6) s clothing. Sgt. Leonardi did not remember any items
being recovered from the frisk of \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(b) s identification was
requested and willingly provided \$87(2)(5) became extremely apologetic and said he
really had to use the bathroom. Sgt. Leonardi remembered asking him, "If you work right here
why didn't you just go in the barbershop?" Sgt. Leonardi did not indicate how, if at all,

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responded. Although Sgt. Leonardi's initial intent on approaching \$87(2)(b) had been to issue him a summons for urinating in public, he decided to use his discretion and not issue him a summons because he was so apologetic.

Sgt. Leonardi denied using profanity or hearing any officer use profanity."

#### Witness Officer: PO ANDREW HO

• At the time of this incident, PO Ho was strong old. PO Ho, who works at the 79<sup>th</sup> precinct, is an Asian male, 6'1" tall, 230 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

### Memo Book (encl. [5S-U])

#### **CCRB Statement (encl. [5V-X])**

PO Ho was interviewed at the CCRB on August 13, 2014. PO Ho was driving very slowly on Putnam Avenue just past the intersection of Franklin Avenue when PO Miller told him, "Stop, that guy's pissing," pointing to §87(2)(b) PO Ho did not observe the male urinating. PO Ho made no other observations of \$87(2)(b) and did not suspect him of any other criminality. PO Ho did not see §87(2)(b) move a piece of wood or make any other furtive movements. PO Ho did not remember if \$87(2)(b) was pushed against a wall. seemed intoxicated because he spoke loudly, but he otherwise showed no signs of intoxication. He was never rude or aggressive. PO Ho never saw bulges on his person. PO PO Ho did not believe § 87(2)(b) was searched or any items recovered from his person. PO Ho denied using profanity towards § 87(2)(6) hearing an officer do so.

#### **Other Evidence**

#### Video Footage (encl. [7A])

The video footage [\$87(2)(6)] provided from Green Organic Deli depicts the sidewalk and street on the north side of Putnam Avenue near the intersection with Franklin Avenue. The video is in color and is time-stamped but lacks audio.

At 9:06:02, the headlights of a vehicle are visible on Putnam Avenue, though the vehicle itself is not in view. At 9:06:04, \$67(2)(b) turns so that he fully faces the camera, his side to the street. He appears to be holding the piece of plywood in his left hand. By 9:06:04, \$67(2)(b) has turned to face the camera and slightly towards the approaching officers, the left side of his body to the wall. He walks a few steps towards the camera and the curb.

At 9:06:10, an officer, who \$37(2)(b) identified as PO Miller, approaches \$37(2)(b) while holding a flashlight. The flashlight shines on \$37(2)(b) who stands in the middle of the sidewalk. He is facing the camera, his right side to the street. He holds something, possibly the aforementioned piece of wood, in his left hand, which he then transfers to his right hand and leans against the gate to the garbage area. An officer, identified by the investigation as Sgt. Leonardi, follows PO Miller. PO Miller has approached \$37(2)(b) and is guiding him towards the wall when Sgt. Leonardi reaches him. By 9:06:21, \$37(2)(b) is fully against the wall, his arms spread. At 9:06:30, a third officer, identified by the

is fully against the wall, his arms spread. At 9:06:30, a third officer, identified by the investigation as PO Ho, also exits and approaches. It is difficult to see what then occurs due to the darkness and distance from the camera. At 21:10:30, the three officers return to their vehicle.

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#### Status of Civil Proceedings (encl. [9A])

• Neither \$87(2)(b) nor \$87(2)(b) has filed a Notice of Claim with the City of New York as of September 12, 2014, more than three months past the filing deadline, with regard to the incident.

#### **Civilians Criminal History (encl. [8A-CW])**

•	§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(c)
•	§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(c)

#### **Civilians CCRB History**

- This is the first CCRB complaint filed by \$87(2)(b) (encl. [2L]).
- \$87(2)(b) has filed the following CCRB complaints (encl. [2M]):
  - § 87(2)(b)

**Subject Officers CCRB History** 

- PO Jamaal Miller has been a member of the service for 9 years and there are four substantiated CCRB allegations against him (encl. [2A-D]).
  - o In case 201210869, allegations of a stop, search of person, threat of physical force, and discourtesy were substantiated and the Board recommended charges.
- Sgt. David Leonardi has been a member of the service for 12 years and there are four substantiated CCRB allegations against him. (encl. [2E-H]).
  - $\circ$  In case 200410123, an allegation of property damage was substantiated and the Board recommended the command discipline. Sgt. Leonardi received command discipline A.
  - In case 201107817, allegations of a stop, frisk, and search of person were substantiated. The Board recommended charges and Sgt. Leonardi received instructions.
- PO Andrew Ho has been a member of the service for 8 years and there is one substantiated CCRB allegation against him (encl. [2I-K]).
  - o In case 201212149, an allegation of a stop was substantiated. The Board recommended charges.

#### Conclusion

#### **Identification of Subject Officers**

PO Miller, PO Ho, and Sgt. Leonardi all acknowledged interacting with \$57(2)(b)

Because PO Miller matches the description provided by \$57(2)(b) and and acknowledged stopping, frisking, and searching him, these allegations have been pleaded against him. \$57(2)(b) alleged that all officers cursed at him during this incident. Therefore allegations of discourtesy have been pleaded against all three officers.

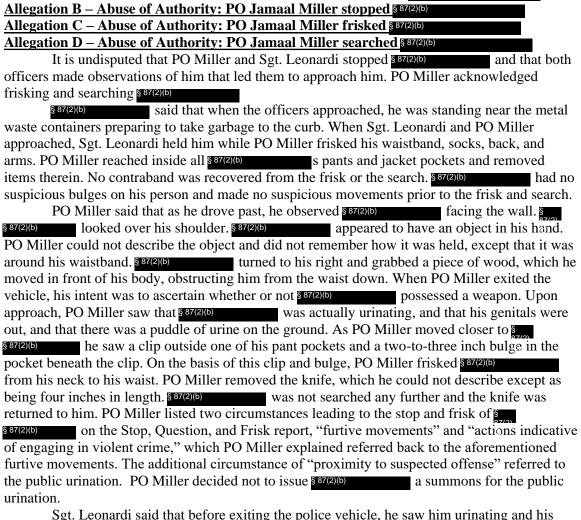
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#### **Investigative Findings and Recommendations**

#### **Allegations Not Pleaded**

Although \$87(2)(5) initially alleged that Sgt. Leonardi knocked his earpiece out of either his ear or his right hand to the ground, he later retracted this and said that he did not remember how his earpiece came to be on the ground.

Allegation A – Abuse of Authority: Sgt. David Leonardi stopped §87(2)(b)



intent was to issue him a summons. Sgt. Leonardi later decided not to issue him a summons because he was so apologetic. As he approached, ser(2)(5) made furtive movements, including "blading" his body away from officers, fidgeting around his waistband, and pulling a piece of plywood in front of his lower body. Sgt. Leonardi could not tell if these furtive movements were an attempt to conceal the signs of his public urination or to conceal a weapon. PO Miller frisked (2072)(5) on the basis of these movements. Sgt. Leonardi did not believe any items were recovered from the frisk and did not remember if he was searched.

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PO Ho indicated that prior to stopping the police vehicle, PO Miller told him he'd seen
urinating. PO Ho did not remember observing any furtive movements,
suspicious bulges, or signs of public urination from \$87(2)(6)
any items being recovered from §87(2)(b)
Video footage showed \$87(2)(b) facing the storefront for approximately 40
seconds before officers approached. Due to the darkness of the picture, § 87(2)(b)
distance from the camera, and the fact that the garbage containers obscure him from the waist
down, it is not possible to see what he is doing during this time. As PO Miller approaches him,
turns to face him while holding a piece of plywood. He holds it for a few
seconds before putting it down.
A person is considered to be stopped when they are detained by virtue of a significant
interruption of liberty of movement. An officer may stop an individual when he reasonably
suspects that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime. An officer
must reasonably suspect based on a totality of the circumstances that a person is armed in order to
conduct a frisk. People v. De Bour, 40 N.Y.2d 210 (1976) (encl. [1A-K]) An officer who frisks a
suspect and feels a possible weapon on a suspect's person may subsequently search the suspect
for that possible weapon and remove it. <u>People v. Walton</u> , 4 Misc. 3d 1018(A) (Sup. Ct., Bronx
Co. 2004) (encl. [L-N]) An officer must have reason to believe that an object observed is a
gravity knife, as opposed to a similar but legal object, based on observable, identifiable
characteristics of the knife, before they can conduct a frisk on the basis of suspected possession of
a knife. People v. Cruz, 39 Misc. 3d 52 (App. Term, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dept., 2013) (encl. [10-Q]) Innocuous
behavior, even in a high crime area, does not provide reasonable suspicion. People v. Hampton,
200 A.D.2d 466 (1994) (encl. [1R-T])
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§ 87(2)(g)
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§ 87(2)(g)

Allegation E – Discourtesy: PO Jamaal Miller spoke rudely to \$87(2)(b)								
Allegation F – Discourtesy: Sgt. Davi								
Allegation G – Discourtesy: PO Andrew Ho spoke rudely to \$87(2)(6)								
alleged that dup," "We do whatever the fuck we wan are is a fucking snitch." He also alleged fucking phone up," and, "Shut the fuck "Leave it the fuck down there. Don't fur PO Miller, PO Ho, and Sgt. Leave officers make them. All denied using property is the same of the	t to do," and, "You're support to do," and, "You're support that Sgt. Leonardi said, "Dup," and that PO Ho told his cking move."  onardi denied making the al	order it I tell you to hang the im, in reference to his earpiece, bove statements, or hearing any						
§ 87(2)(g)	, ,							
Team:								
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Reviewer:								
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§ 87(2)(g)